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Sons of the American revolution. Hawaiian
society.
An address ... concerning the annexation
of Hawaii

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AN ADDRESS

BY THE

society
Hawaiian Branches

OF THE

Sons of the American Revolution,

Sons of Veterans,

AND

Grand Army of the Republic

TO

THEIR COMPATRIOTS IN AMERICA

CONCERNING THE

ANNEXATION OF HAWAII.

WASHINGTON, D. C. :

GIBSON BROS., PRINTERS AND BOOKBINDERS.

1897.

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PREFACE.

The accompanying address concerning the annexation of Hawaii was drawn up and adopted by the Hawaiian branch of the "Sons of the American Revolution" on May 22, 1897, and was thereafter adopted by the Hawaiian branches of the "Sons of Veterans" and the "Grand Army of the Republic."

Each of these patriotic organizations has a membership resident in Hawaii of from 40 to 50 members.

There have been so many conflicting statements concerning Hawaii that it was deemed proper by the organizations named to set before their compatriots in the home country an authoritative statement, which can be relied upon as correctly setting forth the facts and the views of those who have an equal interest in both countries.

The fact that the address was unanimously adopted by each organization separately, indicates the unanimity of spirit among the thinking portion of the Hawaiian population upon the subject.

Although addressed more particularly to members of the organizations named, it is hoped that members of other patriotic organizations, and Americans generally, will consider it as addressed equally to them, and that all Americans who believe that the annexation of Hawaii is a proper national policy will exert their influence to accomplish it, in such manner as they may deem best.

Among other methods of exercising legitimate influence, the following are suggested:

1. The adoption of resolutions by political, social, commercial, and other bodies; publication thereof in local newspapers and forwarding copies to Senators and Representatives to present to Congress.
2. Writing to individual members of Congress with whom you are acquainted.
3. Circulating this and other literature upon the subject in order that the questions at issue may be understood by the American people.

Additional copies of this address, and other literature concerning Hawaii, can be obtained by writing to

P. C. JONES,
President Hawn. So. S. A. R.,
1730 H Street, Washington, D. C.

12-14-39 P. C. J.

AN ADDRESS
BY THE
HAWAIIAN SOCIETY
OF THE
SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION.

HAWAIIAN SOCIETY

OFFICERS

Δ

PRESIDENT

PETER CUSHMAN JONES

VICE-PRESIDENT

CHIEF-JUSTICE ALBERT F. JUDD



SECRETARY

JOHN EFFINGER

REGISTRAR

PROF. WM. DE WITT ALEXANDER

TREASURER

WILLIAM J. FORBES

HAWAIIAN SAFE DEPOSIT BUILDING,

HONOLULU, H. I., May 22, 1897.

*To the Members of the Society of the Sons of the American Revolution
Residing in the United States of America.*

COMPATRIOTS: We, members of this first chapter of the S. A. R. established in a foreign land, send fraternal greeting to our compatriots in the mother country.

Occupying this advanced post of American civilization in the Pacific Ocean, we think it proper for us as patriotic Americans and lovers of liberty, in the present critical state of affairs, while avoiding all partisan considerations, to lay before you a statement of certain facts which intimately concern the honor and the future prosperity of our common country, and the maintenance of American principles and institutions here.

These islands furnish a signal example of the pervading and transforming power of those principles which it is the object of our Society "to maintain and extend." Americans may well be proud of what a little colony of their countrymen has achieved for civilization in these islands, encouraged and aided, as it has been, by the policy of the United States for more than half a century. And now that this American civilization, built up under the fostering care of the mother country, is in imminent peril, it is time that the true state of affairs should be understood by all loyal Americans.

HAWAII THE MEETING PLACE OF AMERICAN AND ASIATIC CIVILIZATIONS.

These islands are the meeting place of the East and the West, of the American and the Asiatic forms of civilization, and a few years will witness the triumph of one or the other. Few of our countrymen are aware of the rapid changes taking place in the condition of the Pacific Ocean. Australia is becoming a mighty commonwealth; Japan is pushing her way to the front as a naval and commercial power; China is beginning to awake out of her long sleep; while Russia only waits the near completion of the trans-Siberian railroad to compete for the control of this ocean.

THE PROPHECY OF WM. H. SEWARD.

The prophecy uttered thirty years ago by Wm. H. Seward bids fair to be fulfilled, viz: "The Pacific Ocean, its shores, its islands, and the vast regions beyond, will become the chief theatre of events in the world's great hereafter."

HAWAII WITHIN THE SPHERE OF THE MONROE DOCTRINE.

The position of these islands shows that their relations are naturally with the American Continent. For that reason they properly fall within the sphere of the Monroe Doctrine, and it is certainly for the interest of their people that they should be kept aloof from the politics of the Old World. It has been remarked that San Francisco, Honolulu and Unalaska form an equilateral triangle. The relation of these islands to the Pacific coast of America is very similar to that of the Bermuda Islands to the Atlantic coast.

HAWAII'S STRATEGIC POSITION.

Admiral Belknap and Captain Mahan have ably explained 'the unique strategic position of Hawaii, forming as it does "the centre of a vast circle whose radius is approximately the distance from Honolulu to San Francisco, which is substantially the same distance as from Honolulu to the Gilbert, Marshall, Samoan and Society Islands, all under European control except Samoa, in which we have a part influence." * * * "Shut out from the Hawaiian Islands as a coaling base," continues Captain Mahan, "an enemy is thrown back for supplies of fuel to distances of 3,500 or 4,000 miles—or between 7,000 and 8,000 miles going and coming,—an impediment to sustained maritime operations well-nigh prohibitive." "It is rarely that so important a factor in the attack or defence of a coast line—of a sea frontier—is concentrated in a single position, and this circumstance renders it doubly imperative upon us to secure it if we righteously can."

THE "CROSS-ROADS OF THE PACIFIC."

The commercial position of the islands is not less unique and important, standing as they do at the "Cross-roads of the Pacific," at the intersection of the steamship lines from Australia to San Francisco and to Vancouver, and from San Francisco to Japan and China. The opening of the Nicaragua Canal and the completion of the Siberian railroad will add immensely to the importance of these islands as a coaling station and a distributive point for commerce. Nor can they be passed by in any scheme for laying telegraph cables across the Pacific.

Aside from their position on the globe, the Hawaiian Islands have a claim on your consideration, both for what they are and for what Americans have made of them. They comprise an area of nearly 7,000 square

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